

XV. *On new or little-known forms of Acraea*. By H. ELTRINGHAM, M.A., F.Z.S.; with description of a new form of *Acraea encedon*. by PROF. E. B. POULTON, F.R.S.

[Read June 4th, 1913.]

Acraea orestia f. *carpenteri*.

= *orestia* f. *humilis*, Eltr., Trans. Ent. Soc., p. 305, 1912
(nec *humilis*, Sharpe).

The description of this form is the same as that given by me (*l. c. sup.*).

I am indebted to my friend Mr. N. D. Riley of the Natural History Museum for calling my attention to the fact that true *A. humilis* differs in certain important respects from the form of *orestia* which so closely resembles it. The acquisition of long series of examples of both these forms from the Mabira Forest, Uganda, has re-established the specific identity of *A. humilis*, and has once more emphasised the difficulty of correctly diagnosing specific distinctions in the absence of ample series of specimens.

The long series referred to above were found by Mr. Riley to consist of individuals which varied from nearly scaleless forms, through a series of intermediates representing the form I have described as *transita* (*l. c.*) up to the usual red hind-winged *orestia*. Further, the nearly scaleless examples are divisible into two groups, one having the sixth and seventh nervures of the hind-wing arising from a common stalk, whilst in the other these nervures arise independently from the cell in the usual manner. I have now examined the genitalia of the form in which the nervures arise from a stalk, and find that their structure differs from that in the unstalked form. It only remained to re-examine the type of *humilis*, when it was found that it exhibited the stalked condition of the nervures. Though described as a female it is actually a male. Both sexes occur in the above series, but there is no marked difference in external characteristics. *Acraea humilis* must therefore be restored to its position as a separate species, and a new name given to the form of *orestia* which so closely resembles it. For this I propose the name *A. orestia* f. *carpenteri*,

TRANS. ENT. SOC. LOND. 1913.—PART II. (SEPT.)

since Dr. G. D. H. Carpenter actually showed, by breeding, the specific identity of this form with *A. orestia*. Whether I noticed the stalked condition of the hind-wing nervules when examining the type of *A. humilis* I do not now recall, though if so, I probably attached little importance to it in the absence of a series showing it to be constant, since the feature is quite inconstant in some species of *Acraea*, notably in *A. burni* Butl. On the other hand, it is constant in the very few examples of *A. iturina* which I have been able to examine, and this fact naturally suggests some connection between *humilis* and that species. The genitalia are, however, quite different, so that there is no reason to suppose that they are even allied. It seems scarcely possible at present to decide on the position of this species (*A. humilis*). Most examples have a spot in hind-wing near the base of the cell and sometimes there is a second immediately below this in 1c. Beyond these there are no markings, the wings being for the most part transparent with a slight dusting of brownish-black scales about the costa of fore-wing and hind-margin, inner margin and base of hind-wing. The genital armature has a very short uncus somewhat like that in *A. penelope*, whilst the claspers are rather like those of *A. buschbecki*.

The synonymy of the species will now be as follows:—

Acraea humilis, E. M. B. Sharpe, Ann. Nat. Hist., (6) 19, p. 582 (1897); Auriv., Rhop. Aeth., p. 86 (1898); Smith & Kirby, Rhop. Exot., 7, p. 23, pl. 7, f. 3 (non f. 1 and 2) (1901).

= *orestia* f. *humilis*, Eltr., Trans. Ent. Soc., p. 305 (1912) (part).

Acraea orestia, Hew., Ent. Mo. Mag., 11, p. 131 (1874); Exot. Butt., *Acraea*, pl. 7, f. 47 (1875); Snellen, Tijdschr. v. Ent., 25, p. 217 (1882); Auriv., Ent. Tidskr., 14, p. 273 (1893); Rhop. Aeth., p. 112 (1898); Lathy, Trans. Ent. Soc., p. 186 (1903); Eltr., Trans. Ent. Soc., p. 305, pl. 15, f. 10 (as *humilis*) (1912).

= *orestina*, Plötz, Stett. Ent. Zeit., 41, p. 190 (1880).

= *iturina*, Neave, Novit. Zool., xi, p. 346 (1904).

f. *transita*, Eltr., Trans. Ent. Soc., p. 306 (1912).

= *humilis* ♂, Smith & Kirby, Rhop. Exot., *Acraea*, 7, p. 23, pl. 7, f. 1, 2 (1901).

f. *carpenteri* nom. nov.

= *orestia* f. *humilis*, Eltr., Trans. Ent. Soc., p. 305 (1912) (part).

Mr. Riley has recently called my attention to several examples of a form of *Acraea doubledayi* which shows marked differences from the typical form of that species.

Acraea doubledayi f. *rileyi*.

♂. Expanse about 52 mm. F.-w. less pointed at apex and less concave along hind-margin than in typical *doubledayi*. Ground-colour pale dusky pink dusted with brown at base, spots smaller and markings generally paler.

H.-w. dull pink with markings as in *doubledayi* but fainter, and hind-marginal border narrower.

Underside resembles that of *doubledayi* but the spots are smaller.

♀ resembles ♂.

Toma, Abyssinia. Mus. Brit.

The genitalia of this form are similar to those of typical *A. doubledayi*.

I append herewith Prof. Poulton's description of a new form of *A. encedon*.

A. encedon f. *commixta*, Poulton, f. n.

The pattern of this form is made up of the hind-wing of *alcippina* combined with the fore-wing of *infuscata* in which the subapical bar is not white, but tawny or smoky-brown. The fore-wing thus approaches that of *daira*, but differs in the retention of the black apex.

Commixta occurred several times (although to a variable extent) among Mr. Lamborn's captures and bred families, and its pattern is strongly hereditary. *Commixta* resembles *albinus*, Lanz, itself a rather rare combination of two forms of *Danaida chrysippus*, *alcippus* and *dorippus*. In spite of the resemblance the two forms are not related as mimic and model. It is, in fact, probable that they do not meet. *Albinus* is most often met with in N.E. Africa, while *commixta* has up to the present time been observed only in collections from the West Coast, although there can be little doubt that it exists in Uganda and probably occasionally on the East Coast.

Type in Hope Department, Oxford.

In the Brit. Mus. Coll. there are 2 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀ from S. Leone, 3 ♂♂ from Nigeria, and 1 ♀ from Old Calabar.

I append notes on certain forms of *Acraea* omitted from my monograph, or described since its publication.

Acraea polychroma, Rebel, Ann. d. K. K. Naturhist., Hofmus., Wien, p. 410, pl. 14, f. 3 (1910).

There seems nothing in the figure or description of this form to distinguish it from *A. amicitiae*, Heron. The locality is, however, different, viz. N.W. shore of L. Tanganyika, 2,000 m.

We must, I think, regard *polychroma* as a synonym of *amicitiae*.

A. pullula, Grünberg, Deut. Zent. Af. Exp., p. 516, pl. 11, f. 7 (1911).

As the publication referred to is difficult to obtain, I give herewith a translation of Grünberg's description.

Allied to *A. vinidia*, Hew. Colouring as in var. *tenella*, Rogenh. The yellow markings of less extent, the wings shorter and more broadly rounded.

♂. Upperside, ground-colour blackish-brown, distal half of fore-wing uniformly dark, without pale subapical band. Inner marginal spot of fore-wing on middle of margin 5.5 mm. in width, of the same width in area 1b, extending over the basal part of area 2, obscured in the cell and barely indicated in the angle of area 3.

H.-w. very like that of *vinidia* var. *tenella*, the yellow basal part somewhat less developed, the blackish-brown border broader, with small, barely indicated reddish-yellow marginal spots. The black basal spots not perceptible on the upperside. Underside more heavily and extensively darkened than in *vinidia*. Both wings with acute angled yellow marginal spots, subapical band in fore-wing merely vestigial, hind-marginal patch much as on upperside. The pale basal area of h.-w. very much reduced by the black markings, the black basal spots of the costa and cell fused together, beyond the cell large and very black, the distal ones extended into long streaks. The yellowish-red markings distinct only in area 1c. On the costa before the precostal nervure a well-defined yellowish-red spot.

Expanse 33 mm.

Ruanda, Mohasi Lake, vii. '07. 1 ♂.

The figure accompanying the description is a very poor one, but I should be much surprised if this form is not ultimately found to be a mere aberration of *A. acerata*.

The fusion of black spots into streaks is an almost certain characteristic of aberration, added to which we have the well-known extreme variability of *A. acerata*.

Acraea (acerata) vinidia, f. *ruandae*, Grünberg, *l. c.*, p. 516, pl. 11, f. 6 (1911).

This form is described as bearing the same relation to f. *diavina* as does f. *tenella* to the type. The description is as follows:—

Upperside very like that of *tenella*. Pale markings straw-yellow with faint reddish-yellow suffusion. H.-w. with small indistinct yellow marginal spots. Subapical band of f.-w. as large as in *tenella*, the pale mark before the end of cell separated from inner marginal spot. Discal spot in area 1*b* and 2 large and well defined, but somewhat smaller than in *diavina*. Underside also very like that of *tenella*. Discal spot of 1*b* and 2 smaller than above. Black basal and discal spots of h.-w. small, the red streaks scarcely indicated. Length of f.-w. 19 mm.

Ruanda, Mohasi Lake, vii. '07 1 ♀.

A. tropicalis, Blachier, Bull. Soc. Lep. Genève, p. 174, pl. 15, f. 2 (1912).

Ngomo, Fr. Congo.

This is a form of *A. pelopeia* having somewhat less than the normal suffusion on the nervules on the underside of hind-wing.

A. conradti ab. *flavescens*, Blachier, *l. c.*, p. 175, pl. 15, f. 3 (1912).

German E. Africa.

The usual red ground-colour is replaced by pale ochreous.

A. horta ab. *conjuncta*, Blachier, *l. c.*, p. 176, pl. 15, f. 4 (1912).

Ground-colour dull brownish-yellow. Hind-wing markings elongated and confluent. No locality.

A. eugenia f. *ochreatea*, Grünberg, S. Ges. Nat. Fr. Berlin, p. 470 (1910).

Described as differing from typical *eugenia* in being more densely scaled. The fore-wing with a distinct black

discocellular spot. Hind-wing from base to middle scaled with yellowish-brown.

Spanish Guinea, Makomo, Ntume Region. 1 ♂.

Acraea egina ♀ f. *alba*, f. nov.

Grünberg has already * remarked on the ♀♀ of *A. egina* from Sesse I. Examples received at Oxford from Dr. Carpenter exhibit the same peculiarities, and it seems desirable that the form should have a name. On the upperside there is no trace of red or ochreous. The ground-colour is dark sepia grey to black. There is a white subapical bar in fore-wing and the outer half of cell, the space just beyond end of cell, base of area 2, and central part of area 1*b* are dusky white. In the hind-wing the internervular spaces and often the central part of cell are also powdered with dusky white. On the underside there is no red except in area 9, base of 7, base of cell, and of areas 1*c*, 1*b* and 1*a*.

There are in the Oxford collection one or two very similar examples from near Mombasa, but these are associated with ♂♂ of the *areca* form, whereas the ♂ *egina* in Sesse I. is of the typical or western pattern.

The close resemblance of this form to the rare western form *medea* is very remarkable.

Sesse I. Type, Oxford.

Acraea terpsichore f. *ventura*, Hew. (note).

Grünberg has also noted (*l. c.*) that examples of *A. terpsichore* from Sesse I. have the red patches on the hind-wing underside exceptionally well marked. Dr. Carpenter's specimens also show this feature, and all belong to the *ventura* form though differing in the fact that the subapical patch of ground-colour in fore-wing is rarely completely cut off by the discal black bar. The brilliance of the red on the hind-wing underside is in most examples very noticeable, and the inner edge of the marginal border is also frequently dusted with red. The form is scarcely sufficiently well defined to require a name.

One ♂ example differs from all the others in having the marginal and subapical black of the fore-wing and the marginal black of the hind-wing considerably extended, so that the spots of ground-colour are much reduced and

* Sitzb. d. Ges. Naturf. Fr., (4) p. 148. 1910.

the fore-wing subapical patch is very small. In this example the underside of hind-wing has the basal portion dull red, the discal area dusted with red and the inner edge of the hind-marginal border of the same colour. The hind-marginal border is without the characteristic black internervular triangular markings.

A. egina, ab. *contraria*, Grünberg, Soc. Ent. Steglitz, p. 145 (1910).

Described by Grünberg from three male examples from Lake Kiwu.

The form resembles *A. egina* f. *harrisoni*, Sharpe, but the black spots of the hind-wing are much smaller, and on the hind-wing underside the hind-marginal black is much reduced.

A similar example occurs in the Oxford collection and was taken by Neave on Chirui Island, L. Bangweolo.